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GOA

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Meaningful celebrations mark World Tourism Day in Goa



Meaningful celebrations by Goa Tourism in keeping with the theme of promoting tourism for all and ensuring universal accessibility marked World Tourism Day on 27th September 2016.

On the occasion, Goa Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation announced plans of ensuring 'proper access' for tourists with disabilities and providing 'all tourism projects, tourist spots and locations with access' for tourists with special needs. The SPV Cell of GTDC has been entrusted with the task of implementing the same.

The day began with a special boat cruise on Santa Monica for children with special needs where 150 children from Sanjay School and Disha School enjoyed a two hour cruise ride cum cultural programme.

A team of experts led by Commissioner Disabilities, Govt. of Goa, Anuradha Joshi spoke on the needs for catering to tourists with special needs.

It was pointed out that Goa is a popular State for tourists with disabilities and that Goa Tourism must ensure 'access' that will draw these footfalls to the State in large numbers.

Mr. Cabral spoke at a cultural programme organized by Goa Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation at the Paryatan Bhavan. Also present for the function were Director of Tourism, Mr. Sanjeev Gaun Dessai, Managing Director of GTDC, Mr. Nikhil Desai, and all officials of Goa Tourism and GTDC.

A book titled '*UMOJA Guide to Goa, Best of Wheelchair Accessibility*' (2016-2017 edition) was also released by Mr. Niles Cabral, Chairman, GTDC.

A special blood donation camp was also held at the Paryatan Bhavan where staff from Goa Tourism and GTDC donated blood for a cause.

In the early hours of the morning, Goa Tourism and India Tourism welcomed tourists arriving in Goa at Goa airport, Dabolim, Margao Railway Station and Panjim inter-state bus depot.

The India Tourism and Travel Tourism Association of Goa also organized programmes to mark World Tourism Day in association with Goa Tourism.

Vintage Bike and Car festival 2016 organized for the first time by Goa Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation



Vintage bike and car festival held at Panjim

The Vintage Bike and Car festival 2016 is all set to be an annual event as the first edition organized by Goa Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation in the capital city Panjim was a huge success.

A record participation of 83 vintage cars and 40 vintage bikes set the streets of the capital city roaring as the vintage automobiles made their way down memory lanes on a two hour long rally. People lined up the rally route and cheered as the convoy of vintage vehicles drove past.

Minister for Tourism, Mr. Dilip Parulekar flagged off the rally at Paryatan Bhavan this morning in the presence of Mr. Nilesh Cabral, Chairman of GTDC and other dignitaries and officials.

During the day the Vintage bikes and cars were on display at the INOX Courtyard where thousands of tourists and locals viewed some of the oldest and grandest automobiles dated from 1921 to 1970.

Vintage bike and car owners travelled distances with their vehicles to partake in the day-long event and have appealed to Goa Tourism to organize the event annually.

The festival saw in attendance automobile dealers, vintage car curators, media from leading automobile magazines, publications, electronic media and key persons from the travel and tourism industry.

A jazz musical show was also organized at the INOX Courtyard. An art competition and a variety of other entertainment were organized to add more festivity.

Goa celebrates the 'Poderachem Fest' - a day for all Goan Bakers

Goa celebrated the Poderachem fest' (bakers feast) from Oct 1 to 3, 2016 with much fanfare and festivity at Socorro village in North Goa.

This festival was attended by bakers from across the state to showcase the variety of bread along with a lot of cultural programmes and entertainment. The event consisted of a parade and a plant exhibition among other attractions during the event. Various local delicacies tucked in bread were relished by visitors at the festival.

The festival helped bring out the significance of Goa's oldest tradition of bread baking and the various types of bread baked in Goa; traditional as well as new forms developed in the state. The event is held to pay a tribute to the Goan bakers and convey their noteworthy contribution to the State and its populace.



Poderachem fest' (bakers feast) at Socorro village in North Goa.

Multi Level Car Parking Project commissioned in the capital city.

The much awaited commissioning of the mega Multi Level Car Parking (MLCP) tourism infrastructure project was done by Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence, Mr. Manohar Parrikar in the distinguished presence of Chief Minister of Goa, Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar, Minister for Tourism, Mr. Dilip Parulekar, Chairman GTDC, Mr. Nilesh Cabral and other dignitaries.

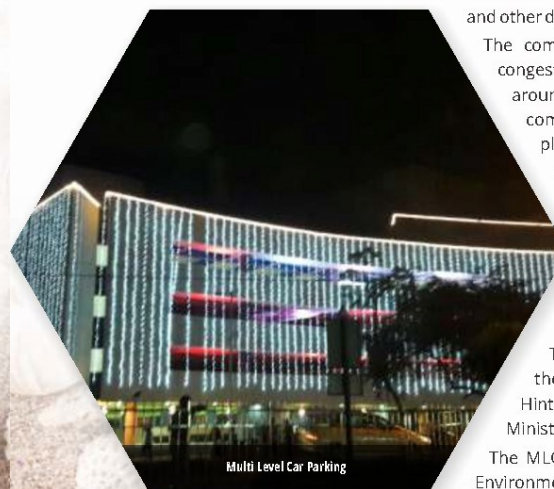
The commissioning of the MLCP project is expected to ease traffic congestion in the capital city and improve vehicular movement in and around Panjim. A total of 465 cars will be accommodated in the MLCP complex. The parking arrangements have been designed on ground plus four levels. On an average 87 cars will be accommodated per level. There are two independent circular ramps for free movement of vehicle for entry and exit.

It will also include 2 passenger lifts, toilet facilities and other basic needs like CCTVs, adequate lighting, monitoring and security etc.

The GTDC is working out a model which will maintain the building as well earn revenue to the corporation.

The project has been undertaken to develop tourist facilities under the 'Integrated Development of Infrastructure for Heritage and Hinterland Tourism' in Goa (IDHHT), with financial assistance from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The MLCP has been constructed at the cost of Rs 35 crore. M/s Lotus Environments was the consultant for this project.



Multi Level Car Parking

Foundation stone laid for development of infrastructure facilities at Chamundeshwari temple at Bicholim

Minister for Tourism Mr. Dilip Parulekar laid the foundation stone for development of infrastructure facilities at Chamundeshwari temple at Bicholim.

The 800-year-old Chamundeshwari Temple at Bicholim is a replica of the Chamundeshwari temple at Mysore. This temple is visited by devotees at least once in a year in January. The development of infrastructure at Chamundeshwari temple is under the project for up-gradation and beautification of tourist places in Bicholim taluka. Facilities like parking, pavements, illumination, beautification and greening, toilets, drinking water facilities and other repairs works are proposed to be undertaken. The project is to cost Rs 4.45 crore. The project is being undertaken by the SPV Cell of GTDC.



Minister for Tourism Mr. Dilip Parulekar laid the foundation stone for development of infrastructure facilities at Chamundeshwari temple at Bicholim

Foundation stone laid for development of public amenities at Anjuna

Minister for Tourism, Mr. Dilip Parulekar today laid the foundation stone for development of public amenities under Swadesh Darshan Scheme at Anjuna.

The Rs 18.66 crore projects will provide amenities like parking, toilet block, information center, illumination, pathways, ticketing booths, hawkers pavilion and temporary kiosks, entrance plaza, landscaping retaining wall and fencing and so on. Mr. Parulekar laid the foundation stone.



Minister for Tourism, Mr. Dilip Parulekar laid the foundation stone for development of public amenities under Swadesh Darshan Scheme at Anjuna

Duck Boat rides launched in Goa

Goa Tourism successfully launched Amphibious Vessels also popularly known as Duck Boats which is the first of its kind being used for civilian purpose (joy rides) in India.

Launched on the auspicious day of Dussehra, the event also marked another milestone for the Government of Goa and

Goa Tourism and was presided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar. Others who were present at the event included Mr. Dilip Parulekar - Minister for Tourism, Mr. Nileshe Cabral - Chairman Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Mr. Sanjeev Gauns Dessai - Director of Tourism, Mr. Nikhil Desai - Managing Director of Goa Tourism Development Corporation, BoDs of GTDC and other officials.

Mr. Parsekar flagged off the amphibian joy ride service and personally experienced the premiere ride in River Mandovi.

The amphibian vehicles have been manufactured by Goa based Amphibious Design (India) Pvt. Ltd. and will be used for operations in Goa by Amphibian Tours Pvt. Ltd.



Duck Boat rides launched in Goa



The maximum capacity for each vehicle is 32 seats that will be charged at Rs. 500/- per head to begin with and will later be increased to Rs. 750/-.

Circuit tours will operate from Panjim to Old Goa and Dr. Salim Ali bird sanctuary to showcase the natural and cultural treasures Goa has.

These tours aim at entertaining and educating tourists about Goa's hinterland and its heritage. The vessels have been assembled in collaboration with Advanced Amphibious Design Inc Honolulu USA. (The world's largest amphibious vehicle manufacturer) using a methodology and design which is cost effective, safe, durable, and enjoyable. ADI Pvt. Ltd. has tied up with Automobile Corporation Goa Limited, Honda, Goa where the amphibian vehicles have been assembled.

The amphibious rides will be carried out with 2 vehicles to begin with and 4 more will be added to the fleet in a phased manner.

One designated pick-up point at Panjim will cater to the tours along 2 different routes. Each tour will be for an hour and 6 time slots will be scheduled for each vehicle in a day.



PEDIBUS – battery operated cycle tours launched



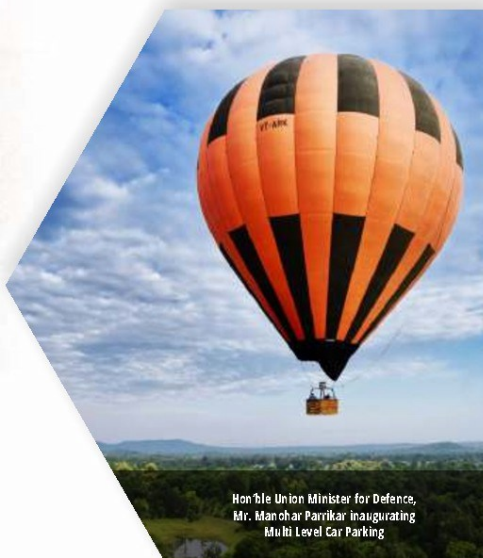
PEDIBUS battery operated eco friendly vehicles which are a big hit in Europe have been launched in Goa and set to enthrall tourists visiting Goa. They are 100 per cent pedal powered and 15 per cent quadricycles having no emission. The concept of PEDIBUS an 8-10 seater cycle is being brought for the first time in India to Goa and will serve as a unique way to explore Goa.

This unique initiative was launched by Union Minister for Defence, Mr. Manohar Parrikar and Chief Minister of Goa Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar during the inauguration of the Multi Level Car Parking project in Panjim.

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Hot Air Ballooning adventure services re-commence in Goa



Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence,
Mr. Manohar Parrikar inaugurating
Multi Level Car Parking

Goa is abuzz with the commencement of the tourism season 2016 and re-launch of adventure activities for the season is also a motion to add thrill and excitement during the next six months.

After the successful launch and operations of the Hot Air Ballooning service last year, Goa Tourism Development Corporation has re-commenced hot air ballooning for the tourism season 2016. Hot air ballooning service was a big hit in Goa last season and in the second year promises to be as exciting and mesmerizing than before.

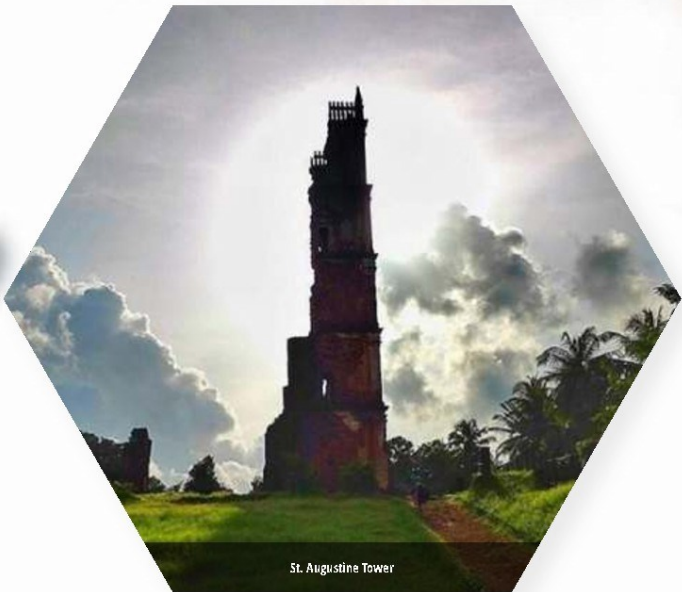
Presently, two hot air balloons will be put into operation giving tourists an experience of Goa's picturesque landscaping and an over view of the rich topography of the Southern side of the State. The service is presently being carried out at Assolda in South Goa with the take off location at the Assolda Village Panchayat ground. A ride for an hour per head will cost Rs 9,900.

Ballooning Safaris are designed by Camping Retreats Pvt. Ltd, a Delhi based agency well known for its high standards of security, safety and customer service in conduct of tiger balloon safaris in India and abroad.

All the required permissions and safety checks for the balloons are obtained. The entire system meets all the required safety standard and certifications. Camping Retreats under the banner of Tiger Balloon Safaris is successfully carrying out Hot Air Balloon Services in the country.



Photo of the month



St. Augustine Tower

Upcoming events



St Francis Xavier Festival

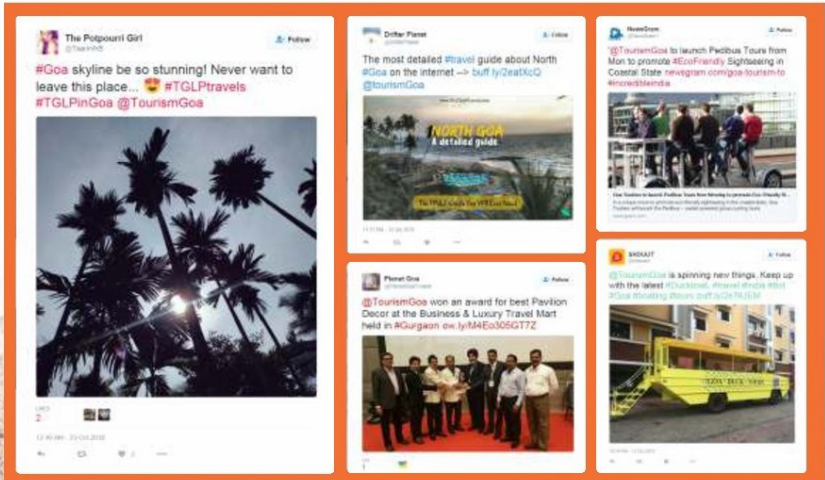


New year party



Spectacular display of fireworks and lighted miniature boats along the shoreline, Panjim

Best tweets and



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